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Quasi-continuum reduction of field theories: A route to seamlessly bridge quantum and atomistic length-scales with continuum

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Final Report

Quasi-continuum reduction of field theories: A route to seamlessly bridge quantum and atomistic length-scales with continuum

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Abstract

This report summarizes the research objectives achieved in this project during the period 03-01-2013 to 02-29-2016. Computational techniques have been developed that enable large-scale real-space electronic structure calculations using Kohn-Sham density functional theory. In particular, the various components of the developed techniques include (i) real-space formulation of Kohn-Sham density-functional theory (DFT) for both pseudopotential and all-electron calculations based on a finite-element discretization; (ii) development of efficient and scalable algorithms for the solution of the Kohn-Sham eigenvalue problem based on Chebyshev filtering; (iii) development of reduced-order scaling techniques by employing a subspace projection technique in conjunction with localization techniques that construct a non-orthogonal localized basis spanning the Chebyshev filtered subspace; (iv) leveraging the localized representation to construct the quasi-continuum reduction. Most aspects of these developments have been numerically implemented, and the benchmark studies have demonstrated that the developed techniques significantly outperform existing conventional DFT implementations in terms of computational efficiency, scaling with system size, and parallel scalability of the numerical implementation. We believe these developed techniques and the numerical implementation can aid as a platform for further development of scalable and efficient real-space Kohn-Sham DFT calculations on tens of thousands of atoms, and enable continuing efforts towards a seamless bridging of the quantum and continuum length-scales.

Summary of Research Objectives Achieved

In this project we have conducted a program of research to develop computational techniques that enable large-scale real-space Kohn-Sham DFT calculations which also form the basis for the quasicontinuum reduction that seamlessly bridge the quantum length-scale with the continuum and enable an accurate electronic structure study of defective crystals. A comprehensive summary of the important research objectives achieved in this project is presented below with references to the published articles (Motamarri et al., 2013; Iyer et al., 2014; Motamarri & Gavini, 2014, 2016).

1 Real-space formulation of Kohn-Sham DFT and finite-element discretization

1.1 Real-space formulation

The ground-state energy of a materials system in Kohn-Sham DFT is given by

$$E(\rho, \mathbf{R}) = T_s(\rho) + E_{\text{xc}}(\rho) + E_H(\rho) + E_{\text{ext}}(\rho, \mathbf{R}) + E_{zz}(\mathbf{R}). \quad (1)$$

where ρ is the ground-state electron-density, $\mathbf{R} = \{\mathbf{R}_1, \mathbf{R}_2, \dots, \mathbf{R}_{N_a}\}$ denotes the collection of nuclear positions in the system with the I^{th} nucleus having an atomic number Z_I . For sake of simplicity, we present the ideas in a non-periodic setting, but extension to periodic and semi-periodic problems is straightforward (as the formalism is in real-space) and has already been developed and implemented. In equation (1), the first term, $T_s(\rho)$, represents the kinetic energy of non-interacting electrons, the second term, $E_{\text{xc}}(\rho)$, represents the exchange-correlation term which accounts for the quantum-mechanical interactions between electrons, and $\rho(\mathbf{x})$ represents the electron-density distribution. The last three terms of the energy functional (1) represent the classical electrostatic interactions—electron-electron, electron-nuclei and nuclei-nuclei interaction energies, respectively, and are given by:

$$E_H(\rho) = \frac{1}{2} \int \int \frac{\rho(\mathbf{x})\rho(\mathbf{x}')}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} d\mathbf{x} d\mathbf{x}' ; \quad E_{\text{ext}}(\rho, \mathbf{R}) = - \sum_{I=1}^{N_a} \int \frac{Z_I \rho(\mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{R}_I|} d\mathbf{x} ; \quad E_{zz}(\mathbf{R}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{I,J=1 \\ J \neq I}}^{N_a} \frac{Z_I Z_J}{|\mathbf{R}_I - \mathbf{R}_J|}$$

The non-local (extended) electrostatic interactions involve the kernel $1/|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|$, which is the Green's function of the Laplace operator. These electrostatic interactions are thus computed by taking recourse to the solution of the Poisson equation to evaluate the total electrostatic potential, $\varphi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{R})$, associated with the total charge distribution (Motamarri et al., 2012, 2013). Finally, the electron-density ρ and the kinetic energy of non-interacting electrons are computed from the self-consistent field (SCF) iteration of the Kohn-Sham eigenvalue problem which results from the first variation of the DFT energy functional in equation (1). The system of equations corresponding to the self-consistent formulation are:

$$\left(-\frac{1}{2} \nabla^2 + V_{\text{eff}}(\rho, \mathbf{R}) \right) \psi_i = \epsilon_i \psi_i, \quad V_{\text{eff}}(\rho, \mathbf{R}) = \frac{\delta E_{\text{xc}}}{\delta \rho} + \varphi(\rho, \mathbf{R}) \quad (2a)$$

$$2 \sum_i f(\epsilon_i) = N_e; \quad \rho(\mathbf{x}) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^N f(\epsilon_i) |\psi_i(\mathbf{x})|^2, \quad (2b)$$

$$-\frac{1}{4\pi} \nabla^2 \varphi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{R}) = \rho(\mathbf{x}) - \sum_{I=1}^{N_a} Z_I \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{R}_I) \quad (2c)$$

where ψ_i denote the wavefunctions or orbitals of a material system with N_e electrons and f_i denotes the orbital occupancy given by the finite-temperature Fermi-Dirac distribution. Upon solving the above system of equations for lowest N eigenfunctions, the kinetic energy is given by $T_s(\rho) = \sum_i f(\epsilon_i) \epsilon_i - \int \rho V_{\text{eff}}$. In the case of pseudopotential calculations, where only the wavefunctions for the valence electrons are computed, the Coulomb singular V_{ext} is replaced by a smooth pseudopotential which provides an effective potential of the nucleus and the core electrons.

1.2 Finite-element discretization

We use the finite-element (FE) basis, a C^0 continuous piecewise polynomial basis, for discretizing the Kohn-Sham Hamiltonian. The FE basis functions are local in nature and result in discrete sparse

matrices, and, thus, numerical implementations based on finite-element basis scale well on massively parallel computing platforms (up to thousands of processors) and offers a distinct advantage in comparison to other widely used basis sets. The discretization of Kohn-Sham equations (2) using a finite-element basis results in a generalized eigenvalue problem given by

$$\mathbf{H}\hat{\Psi}_i = \epsilon_i^h \mathbf{M}\hat{\Psi}_i , \quad (3)$$

where \mathbf{H}_{jk} denotes the discrete Hamiltonian matrix, \mathbf{M}_{jk} denotes the overlap matrix and ϵ_i^h denotes i^{th} eigenvalue corresponding to the eigenvector $\hat{\Psi}_i$ which corresponds to the nodal vector of the corresponding eigenfunction $\psi_i^h(\mathbf{x})$ on a given finite-element mesh. The sparse matrices \mathbf{H} is given by

$$\mathbf{H}_{jk} = \frac{1}{2} \int \left[\nabla N_j(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \nabla N_k(\mathbf{x}) + V_{\text{eff}}^h(\rho^h(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{R}) N_j(\mathbf{x}) N_k(\mathbf{x}) \right] d\mathbf{x} \quad (4)$$

where $N_j : 1 \leq j \leq M$ denotes the finite-element basis functions and $M_{jk} = \int N_j(\mathbf{x}) N_k(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}$ denotes the overlap matrix. The key strategies employed to improve the computational efficiency of FE discretization of Kohn-Sham equations are:

A priori mesh adaption: An *a priori* mesh adaption technique is developed to construct a close to optimal FE discretization of the Kohn-Sham DFT problem by minimizing the FE approximation error in the ground-state energy for a fixed number of elements in the mesh (Motamarri et al., 2013). To achieve this, a formal bound on the approximation error is derived, as a function of mesh size, degree of FE basis functions and the electronic fields involved. This technique enables us to exploit the adaptive nature of FE basis sets by systematically coarse-graining the finite-element mesh in order to reduce the total number degrees of freedom and thereby achieve significant computational savings.

Higher-order spectral finite-elements: Higher-order spectral finite-elements up to sixth order are employed. Here the FE basis functions corresponds to Lagrange polynomials interpolated through an optimal distribution of nodes (Gauss-Lobatto-Legendre (GLL) points), corresponding to the roots of derivatives of Legendre polynomials. The use of spectral finite-elements in higher-order FE discretization of the Kohn-Sham eigenvalue problem offers two main advantages. Firstly, a spectral finite-element basis has an improved conditioning in comparison to the conventional finite-elements using equispaced nodes. Secondly, employing a GLL quadrature rule in conjunction with spectral finite-elements results in a diagonal overlap matrix which allows for trivial transformation of the generalized eigenvalue problem (3) to a standard eigenvalue problem as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{H}\tilde{\Psi}_i &= \epsilon_i^h \mathbf{M}\tilde{\Psi}_i & \Rightarrow & \quad \mathbf{H}\tilde{\Psi}_i = \epsilon_i^h \mathbf{M}^{1/2} \mathbf{M}^{1/2} \tilde{\Psi}_i & \Rightarrow & \quad \tilde{\mathbf{H}}\hat{\Psi}_i = \epsilon_i^h \hat{\Psi}_i \\ \text{where } & \hat{\Psi}_i = \mathbf{M}^{1/2} \tilde{\Psi}_i; & \tilde{\mathbf{H}} = \mathbf{M}^{-1/2} \mathbf{H} \mathbf{M}^{-1/2} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

We conducted systematic studies to assess the computational efficiency afforded by higher-order FE discretizations of Kohn-Sham DFT (Motamarri et al., 2013). Our benchmark numerical studies demonstrated optimal rates of convergence for both pseudopotential as well as all-electron calculations (cf. Figures 1 & 2). While higher-order discretizations are more accurate and require lesser number of basis functions to achieve chemical accuracy in comparison to a lower-order discretization, the per basis computational cost is also higher for higher-order discretizations. Thus, in order to assess the computational efficiency of higher order finite-element discretizations we conducted a study to compare the CPU times required to compute the electronic structure of benchmark problems using various orders of finite-element basis functions. Our studies indicate that a 4th order FE basis function provides a staggering 100-1000 fold computational savings in comparison to a linear FE basis function (cf. Figures 3 & 4). This clearly demonstrates the computational efficiency afforded by higher-order discretizations in electronic structure calculations.

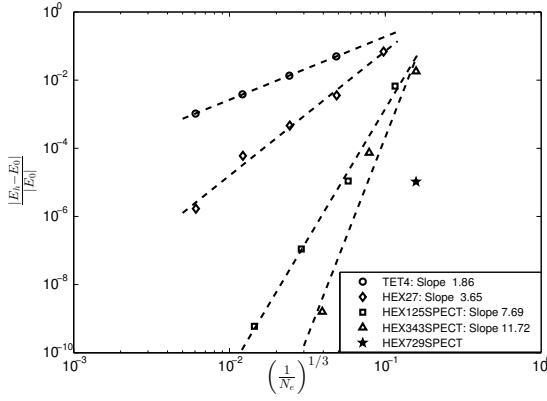


Figure 1: Convergence of error in ground-state energy of a 35-atom Barium cluster for various orders of finite-elements (pseudopotential) (Motamarri et al., 2013).

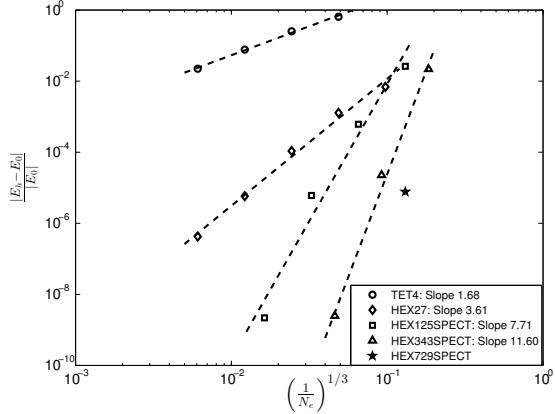


Figure 2: Convergence of error in ground-state energy of a methane molecule for various orders of finite-elements (all-electron) (Motamarri et al., 2013).

1.3 Solution of the Kohn-Sham eigenvalue problem via Chebyshev filtering:

The use of spectral elements allows us to trivially transform the generalized eigenvalue problem to a standard eigenvalue problem. Noting that the key quantity of interest in density functional theory—electron-density—can be computed from the eigenspace of the occupied states, we employ the Chebyshev filtering technique (ChFSI-FE) to compute an approximation to the occupied eigenspace. We refer to Motamarri et al. (2013); Motamarri & Gavini (2014) for the specific details of our implementation. In brief, the ChFSI technique represents a modified power iteration in every SCF iteration that exploits the rapid growth of Chebyshev polynomials in $(-\infty, -1)$ to magnify the relevant eigenspectrum (Zhou et al., 2006), thus providing a good subspace for the solution of the Kohn-Sham eigenvalue problem. Upon computing the Chebyshev filtered subspace, we orthogonalize the Chebyshev filtered vectors and project the discrete Hamiltonian onto the subspace and compute the eigenvalue and eigenvectors of the subspace projected Hamiltonian. We evaluated the efficiency of the ChFSI-FE approach with conventional approaches of solving the generalized Kohn-Sham eigenvalue problem using Jacobi-Davidson method and the standard eigenvalue problem using the Krylov Schur method. Table 1 shows this comparison demonstrating the significant computational efficiency afforded by ChFSI-FE for both pseudopotential and all-electron calculations.

Table 1: Comparison of generalized eigenvalue problem, standard eigenvalue problem, and the Chebyshev filtering technique. Benchmark problems include an all-electron calculation of 16 atom graphene sheet and a pseudopotential calculation on a 172 atom aluminum cluster (Motamarri et al., 2013).

Element Type	DOFs	Problem Type	N	Time (GHEP)	Time (SHEP)	ChFSI-FE
HEX125SPECT	1,368,801	graphene	96	1786 CPU-hrs	150 CPU-hrs	12.5
HEX343SPECT	2,808,385	Al $3 \times 3 \times 3$ cluster	516	2084 CPU-hrs	80 CPU-hrs	13

We also conducted benchmark studies comparing the developed approach using ChFSI-FE with ABINIT software, which is a well developed plane-wave based method for solving the ground-state

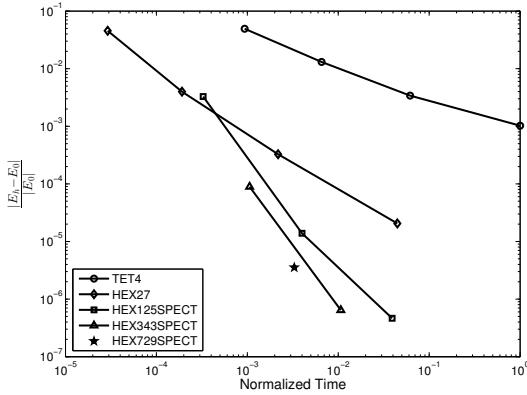


Figure 3: Relative performance of various orders of finite-elements measured in terms of computational time for pseudopotential calculation of 35-atom Barium cluster (Motamarri et al., 2013).

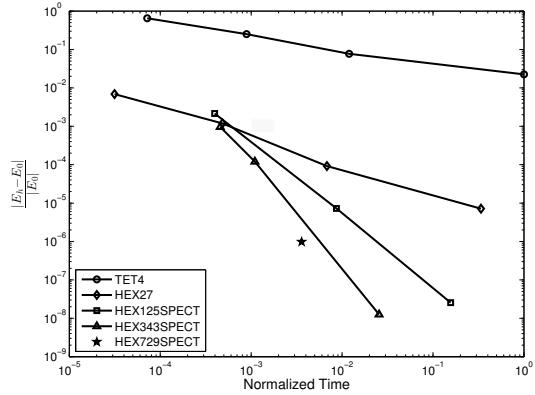


Figure 4: Relative performance of various orders of finite-elements measured in terms of computational time for the all-electron calculation of methane molecule (Motamarri et al., 2013).

Kohn-Sham DFT problem. Table 2 shows these results which demonstrates a significant outperformance by the developed approach. Using the developed real-space approach, we have demonstrated pseudopotential calculations on systems as large as a few thousand atoms and all-electron calculations on systems as large as a few thousand electrons using the modest computational resources at our disposal. Figures 5 & 6 show the electron density contours from all-electron calculations of a graphene sheet containing 100 atoms and Tris (bipyridine) ruthenium complex, an organo-metallic complex. Further, given the good scaling exhibited by the developed implementation on parallel computing architectures (cf. Figure 7), systems beyond the reach of conventional plane-wave based implementations are now accessible.

Table 2: Comparison of the developed real-space DFT code with ABINIT for an Aluminum nanocluster containing 666 atoms (pseudopotential calculation with Troullier Martins psedopotential).

Type of basis set	Energy (eV) per atom	Abs. error (eV) per atom	Rel. error	Time (CPU-hrs)
ABINIT (cut-off 20 Ha; 1,093,421 plane waves)	-56.8739	0.0043	7.5×10^{-5}	8640
Real-space (HEX343SPECT FE basis; 4,363,621 nodes)	-56.8765	0.0017	3×10^{-5}	1132

2 Reduced order scaling using localization ideas and quasi-continuum reduction:

The real-space ChFSI-FE formulation discussed in the previous section, which computes the canonical eigenfunctions and eigenvalues, asymptotically scales cubically with number of atoms (due to the cubic scaling of diagonalizing a matrix). This becomes prohibitively expensive for large-scale DFT calculations, and hence, in order to reduce the computational complexity, we developed a subspace projection technique (Motamarri & Gavini, 2014) that has reduced order scaling. The formulation

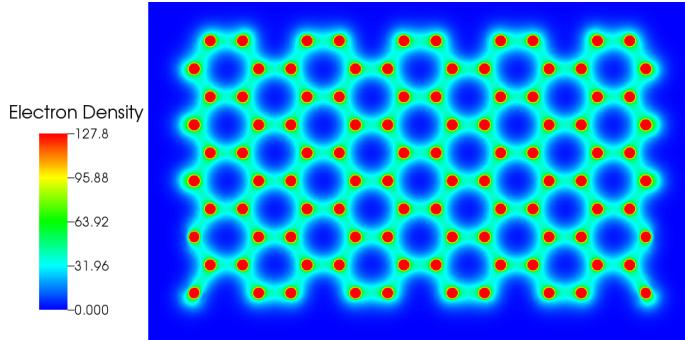


Figure 5: Electron-density contours from an all-electron DFT calculation of a 100 atom graphene sheet (Motamarri et al., 2013).

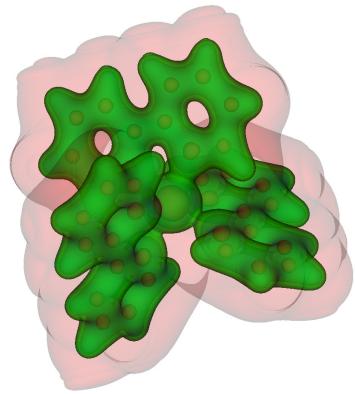


Figure 6: Isocontours of the electron density from an all-electron calculation of Tris (bipyridine) ruthenium complex (Motamarri et al., 2013).

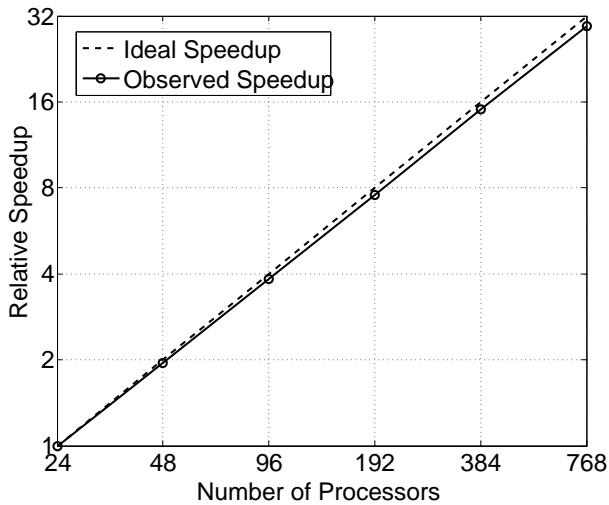


Figure 7: Strong scaling study demonstrating over 90% efficiency at 768 processors. Benchmark system is $3 \times 3 \times 3$ aluminum cluster (172 atom) with a FE discretization containing 4 million basis functions.

provides a *single unified framework to handle both insulating and metallic systems*. Further, both pseudopotential as well as all-electron calculations can be conducted using the proposed methodology. The key ideas involved in the method include: (i) expressing the Kohn-Sham Hamiltonian and the corresponding wave-functions in Löwdin orthonormalized finite-element basis constructed using spectral finite-elements in conjunction with GLL quadrature rules; (ii) employing a Chebyshev filtering approach in each SCF iteration for an efficient computation of the eigenspace; (iii) use a localization procedure (Garcia-Cervera et al., 2009) to compute atom-centered nonorthogonal localized basis (localized wavefunctions) spanning the Chebyshev filtered subspace; (iv) computing the projection of the Hamiltonian into the non-orthogonal localized basis and using a Fermi-operator (Baer & Head-Gordon, 1997) expansion of the projected Hamiltonian to compute the relevant quantities like density matrix, electron density and the band energy. The computational complexity of this algorithm for well-localized wavefunctions with a compact support is shown to be linear – $\mathcal{O}(N)$. We refer to Motamarri & Gavini (2014) for details of this algorithm, and present here some benchmark results that demonstrates the significant computational efficiency afforded by this approach. Figure 8 shows the computational time per SCF for the developed subspace projection method in comparison with ChFSI-FE for benchmark problems involving a series aluminum nano-clusters and alkane chains. As is evident the developed localization approach provides close to ten-fold computational savings and enables consideration of systems approaching close to 10,000 atoms. Further, we note that the observed scaling for the alkane chains (system with band gap) is close to linear scaling with system size, and the scaling for aluminum clusters (representative of a metallic system) is $\sim \mathcal{O}(N^{1.5})$, which is a significant improvement over the cubic-scaling for conventional solution methods.

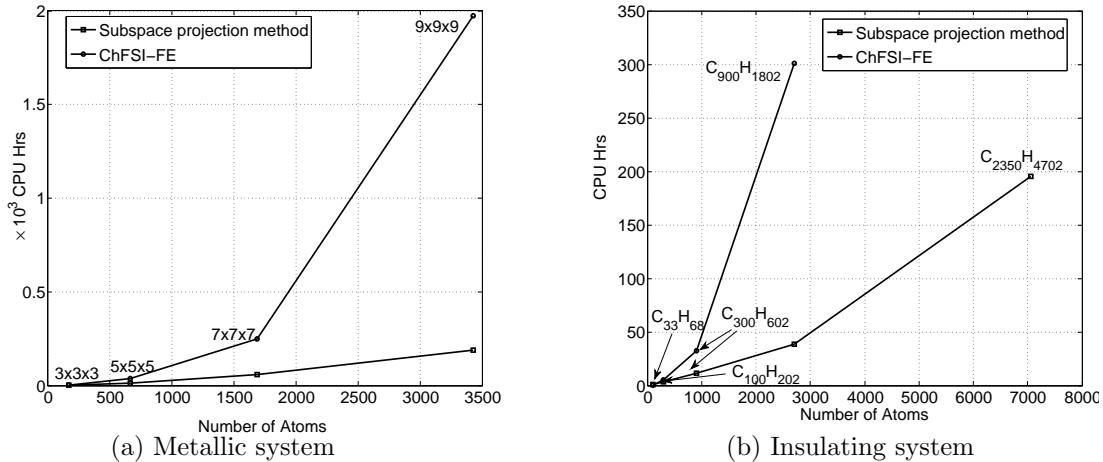


Figure 8: Average computational time (CPU-Hrs) per SCF iteration for the subspace projection method and ChFSI-FE for a pseudopotential calculation. Case study: (a) Aluminum nano-clusters(upto 3430 atoms) (b) Alkane chains (up to 7000 atoms) (Motamarri & Gavini, 2014).

While providing reduced order scaling, the developed localization technique is also crucial to the quasi-continuum reduction of Kohn-Sham DFT. Using this localized representation, the wavefunctions are decomposed into a predictor and corrector, where the predictor is computed using the Cauchy Born hypothesis (along the similar lines as the quasi-continuum reduction for orbital-free DFT (Gavini et al., 2007; Radhakrishnan & Gavini, 2010)). In regions of smooth deformations, such

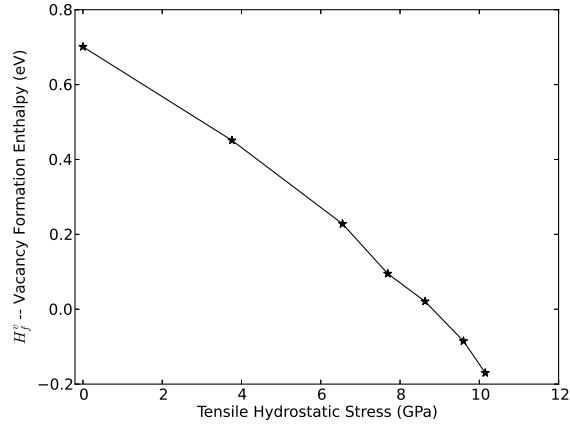
as away from the defect-core, the predictor provides an effective representation of the wavefunction, whereas in regions close to the defect-core the corrector provides corrections to the predictor. Given the nature of the corrector fields, they can be efficiently represented by using an adaptive discretization, with more resolution near the defect-core and coarse-graining away from it. We are currently implementing the quasi-continuum reduction for Kohn-Sham DFT using the localization technique in our framework.

3 Application studies:

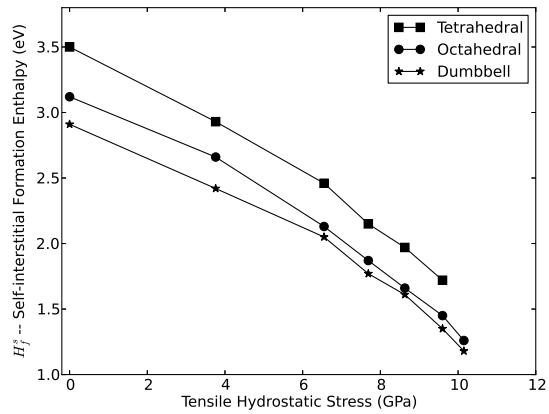
We investigated the energetics of point defects—monovacancy, self-interstitials (tetrahedral, octahedral and dumbbell) and Frenkel pairs—in aluminum under tensile hydrostatic stresses in order to understanding the mechanisms leading to spall failure in metals. We find that that the defect core-energy of a vacancy, which is governed solely by the electronic-structure at the core, significantly depends on the macroscopic hydrostatic stress, and that this constitutes an important contribution to the formation enthalpy, especially in the regime of extreme tensile hydrostatic stresses. This finding is in contrast to widely used elastic formulations of point defects based on formation volume that ignore the defect core-energy contribution. The formation enthalpies of all point defects considered in this study monotonically decrease with increasing tensile hydrostatic stress (cf. Figure 9). Further, we find that the formation enthalpies of vacancies and Frenkel pairs are negative beyond critical tensile hydrostatic stresses (9 GPa for vacancies and 12 GPa for Frenkel pairs), which suggests a spontaneous nucleation of these point defects and this has important implications to nucleation mechanisms leading to spall failure. In particular, these findings suggest two possible defect nucleation mechanisms leading to spall failure: (i) a heterogeneous nucleation of vacancies from defect sources; (ii) a homogeneous nucleation of Frenkel pairs at higher hydrostatic stresses. We refer to (Iyer et al., 2014) for further details on the calculations and the findings.

4 Publications supported by this grant

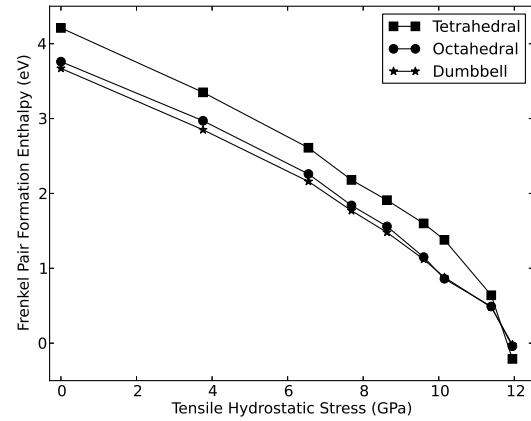
- 1 Motamarri, P., Nowak, M.R., Leiter, K., Knap, J., Gavini, V., Higher-order adaptive finite-element methods for Kohn-Sham density functional theory, *J. Comput. Phys.* **253**, 308-343 (2013).
- 2 Iyer, M., Pollock, T.M., Gavini, V., Energetics and nucleation of point defects in aluminum under extreme tensile hydrostatic stresses, *Phys. Rev. B* **89**, 014108 (2014).
- 3 Motamarri, P., Gavini, V., A subquadratic-scaling subspace projection method for large-scale Kohn-Sham DFT calculations using spectral finite-element discretization, *Phys. Rev. B* **90**, 115127 (2014).
- 4 Motamarri, P., Blesgen, T., Gavini, V., Tucker-tensor algorithm for large-scale Kohn-Sham density functional theory calculations, *Phys. Rev. B* **93**, 125104 (2016).
- 5 Motamarri, P., Gavini, V., Configurational forces in electronic structure calculations (in preparation, 2016).
- 6 Motamarri, P., Gavini, V., Bhattacharya, K., Ortiz, M., A spectrum splitting approach for large-scale all-electron Kohn-Sham DFT calculations (in preparation, 2016).



(a) Vacancy



(b) Self interstitial



(c) Frenkel pair

Figure 9: Formation enthalpies of point defects as a function of tensile hydrostatic stress (Iyer et al., 2014).

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1. Report Type

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Organization / Institution name

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Grant/Contract Title

The full title of the funded effort.

Quasi-continuum reduction of field theories: A route to seamlessly bridge quantum and atomistic length-scales with continuum

Grant/Contract Number

AFOSR assigned control number. It must begin with "FA9550" or "F49620" or "FA2386".

FA9550-13-1-0113

Principal Investigator Name

The full name of the principal investigator on the grant or contract.

Vikram Gavini

Program Manager

The AFOSR Program Manager currently assigned to the award

Dr. Jean-Luc Cambier

Reporting Period Start Date

03/01/2013

Reporting Period End Date

02/29/2016

Abstract

This report summarizes the research objectives achieved in this project during the period 03-01-2013 to 02-29-2016. Computational techniques have been developed that enable large-scale real-space electronic structure calculations using Kohn-Sham density functional theory. In particular, the various components of the developed techniques include (i) real-space formulation of Kohn-Sham density-functional theory (DFT) for both pseudopotential and all-electron calculations based on a finite-element discretization; (ii) development of efficient and scalable algorithms for the solution of the Kohn-Sham eigenvalue problem based on Chebyshev filtering; (iii) development of reduced- order scaling techniques by employing a subspace projection technique in conjunction with local- ization techniques that construct a non-orthogonal localized basis spanning the Chebyshev filtered subspace; (iv) leveraging the localized representation to construct the quasi-continuum reduction. Most aspects of these developments have been numerically implemented, and the benchmark stud- ies have demonstrated that the developed techniques significantly outperform existing conventional DFT implementations in terms of computational efficiency, scaling with system size, and parallel scalability of the numerical implementation. We believe these developed techniques and the numeri- cal implementation can aid as a platform for further development of scalable and efficient real-space Kohn-Sham DFT calculations on tens of thousands of atoms, and enable DISTRIBUTION A: Distribution approved for public release.

continuing efforts towards a seamless bridging of the quantum and continuum length-scales.

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Archival Publications (published) during reporting period:

1. Motamarri, P., Nowak, M.R., Leiter, K., Knap, J., Gavini, V., Higher-order adaptive finite- element methods for Kohn-Sham density functional theory, *J. Comput. Phys.* 253, 308-343 (2013).
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3. Motamarri, P., Gavini, V., A subquadratic-scaling subspace projection method for large-scale Kohn-Sham DFT calculations using spectral finite-element discretization, *Phys. Rev. B* 90, 115127 (2014).
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6. Motamarri, P., Gavini, V., Bhattacharya, K., Ortiz, M., A spectrum splitting approach for large-scale all-electron Kohn-Sham DFT calculations (in preparation, 2016).

Changes in research objectives (if any):

Change in AFOSR Program Manager, if any:

Dr. Jean-Luc Cambier

Extensions granted or milestones slipped, if any:

AFOSR LRIR Number

LRIR Title

Reporting Period

Laboratory Task Manager

Program Officer

Research Objectives

Technical Summary

Funding Summary by Cost Category (by FY, \$K)

	Starting FY	FY+1	FY+2
Salary			
Equipment/Facilities			
Supplies			
Total			

Report Document

Report Document - Text Analysis

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Appendix Documents

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